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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/598,134

06/21/2000

Eric Schneider

7196

24226

7590

10/14/2003

ERIC SCHNEIDER

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EXAMINER

COULTER, KENNETH R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2141

DATE MAILED: 10/14/2003

5

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/598,134

Applicant(s)

SCHNEIDER, ERIC

Examiner

Kenneth R Coulter

Art Unit

2141

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 8-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 8-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 23-27 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restriction

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. Claims 8 - 22, drawn to a search mechanism, classified in class 707, subclass 3.
 - II. Claims 23 - 27, drawn to retrieving data, classified in class 709, subclass 217.

2. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions I and II are unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the different inventions are capable of use separately and have different modes of operation since Group I is related to a search mechanism and Group II is related to information retrieval.

3. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

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4. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for Group I is not required for Group II, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

5. During a telephone conversation with Eric Schneider on September 29, 2003 a provisional election was made with traverse to prosecute the invention of Group I, claims 8 - 22. Affirmation of this election must be made by applicant in replying to this Office action. Claims 23 - 27 are withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

Double Patenting

6. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground

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provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

7. Claims 8 - 22 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 - 21 of U.S. Patent No. 6,338,082. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because both the present Application and U.S. Patent No. 6,338,082 disclose a method for processing a request having one or more search terms comprising:

one of a receiving or generating at least one domain name from the one or more search terms;

retrieving at least one search result corresponding to the one or more search terms; and

determining whether said at least one domain name is available for registration either one of a before, during, or after providing said at least one retrieved search result.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

8. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

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(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

9. Claims 8 - 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being disclosed by Broadhurst (U.S. Pat. No. 6,560,634) (Method of Determining Unavailability of an Internet Domain Name).

9.1 Regarding claim 8, Broadhurst discloses a method for processing a request having one or more search terms comprising:

one of a receiving or generating at least one domain name from the one or more search terms (Abstract; Fig. 4, item 414; Fig. 5A; col. 6, lines 15 - 26; col. 4, lines 10 - 22);

retrieving at least one search result corresponding to the one or more search terms (col. 7, lines 9 - 26); and

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determining whether said at least one domain name is available for registration either one of a before, during, or after providing said at least one retrieved search result (col. 6, lines 15 - 26; col. 7, lines 9 - 26).

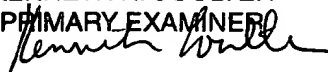
9.2 Per claim 9, Broadhurst teaches that the one or more search terms includes one or more keywords (col. 5, lines 28 - 42).

9.3 Regarding claim 10, Broadhurst discloses that said at least one domain name is one of a valid domain name or fictitious domain name (col. 6, lines 15 - 26).

9.4 Per claims 11 - 22, Broadhurst teaches a registration form (Fig. 6c); a template (Fig. 6c); hyperlinks (col. 6, lines 15 - 26; col. 7, lines 9 - 26); metalink that access meta information corresponding to a domain name (col. 6, lines 15 - 26; col. 7, lines 9 - 26); WHOIS record (Fig. 4, item 422; col. 6, lines 27 - 43); valid domain name identifier prefix (Fig. 5A).

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10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kenneth Coulter whose telephone number is (703) 305-8447.

KENNETH R. COULTER
PRIMARY EXAMINER


krc

October 1, 2003